

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1219
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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UNCLAS ADANA 073
E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: RALLIES BY DEMIREL AND ECEVIT
1. SUMMARY: DEMIREL AND ECEVIT STAGED MAJOR RALLIES IN THIS
CONSULAR DISTRICT AT TARSUS (WHICH WE ATTENDED) AND GAZIANTEP
MARCH 26 AND 27 RESPECTIVELY. DRAWING A CROWD AT TARSUS THAT
APPEARED TO MATCH THAT OF ECEVIT LAST NOVEMBER (REFTEL),
DEMIREL, USING FOLKSY HUMOR, CLEARLY CAME OVER WELL. DETAILING
JP'S ACHIEVEMENTS, DEMIREL RIDICULED RPP'S RECORD IN 1973 - 74, AND
CITED ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AS A POSSIBLE
TROJAN HORSE FOR FOREIGN LEFTISM. AT A LARGER RALLY IN GAZIANTEP,
WHICH FORMALLY KICKED OFF HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ECEVIT

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STRESSED NEED FOR EARLY ELECTIONS (PREFERABLY UNDER A NEW
GOVERNMENT) AND DEPLORED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNDER DEMIREL.
END SUMMARY
2. ECEVIT SPOKE MARCH 27 IN GAZIANTEP TO A CROWD ESTIMATED
BY PRO-RPP PAPERS AT 200,000. UNLIKE DEMIREL'S SPEECH, THE
SUBJECT OF EARLY ELECTIONS AND THE NSP WAS A MAJOR FOCUS.
ECEVIT DECLARED HE WAS OPENING HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN
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GAZIANTEP, AND THAT ONLY THE RPP COULD COME TO POWER WITHOUT
A COALITION. EARLY ELECTIONS WERE "NECESSARY," AND IT WOULD
BE BEST FOR TURKEY TO GO TO ELECTIONS WITHOUT THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT. TOWARD THIS END, DP AND NSP HAD BEEN INVITED TO
A MEETING, BUT NSP HAD NOT ATTENDED. THE INVITATION WAS
STILL OPEN, BUT RPP "WILL FIND A WAY" FOR EARLY ELECTIONS EVEN
WITHOUT NSP.

3. ANOTHER MAJOR FOCUS OF ECEVIT'S SPEECH WAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. HE DECLARED THAT UNDER DEMIREL PEOPLE ARE KILLED IN THE STREETS FOR THEIR THOUGHTS, AND THAT THE ONLY SIMILAR CASE IN THE WORLD IS IDI AMIN'S UGANDA. "BUT TURKEY IS NOT IDI AMIN'S UGANDA; THOSE WHO WANT TO PUT TURKEY IN UGANDA'S POSITION WILL GET THEIR LESSONS DURING THE ELECTION."

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4. ECEVIT'S SPEECH WAS MARKED BY TWO OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE. A GROUP IDENTIFIED IN THE PRESS AS EXTREME LEFTISTS FIRED IN THE AIR SHORTLY AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE ADDRESS, AND IN THE RESULTING SCUFFLE THREE PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED AND FOUR TO FIVE PLACED UNDER POLICE SUPERVISION. LATER IN THE SPEECH, MEMBERS OF THE IPLIK IS UNION BEGAN CHANTING SLOGANS SUCH AS "THE ONLY WAY IS REVOLUTION" AND "DAMN SOCIAL FASCISTS". RPP YOUTH ATTACKED THEM, AND SIX WERE WOUNDED AND FIVE PLACED UNDER POLICE SUPERVISION (INCLUDING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION).
5. DEMIREL SPOKE MARCH 26 TO GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC, CALM CROWD OF OVER TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND. IN A FOLKSY SPEECH LACED WITH HUMOR, THAT DREW CHUCKLES FROM HIS LISTENERS HE STRESSED THE "CAN DO" RECORD OF JP, WHICH "THROWS" CORNERSTONES, NOT THE TYPE OF STONES SOME OTHERS THROW. DEMIREL FOLLOWED THIS WITH SHARP ATTACKS ON THE RPP IMPLYING THAT ITS JOINING THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL OPENS IT TO LENINISM AND MAOISM. HE ATTACKED RPP FOR ITS "KOY-KENT" PLAN, WHICH "INSTEAD OF BRINGING ELECTRICITY TO THE VILLAGE BRINGS THE VILLAGE TO THE ELECTRICITY." UNDER JP, TURKEY HAS HAD WHEAT SURPLUSES, AND HAS NOT HAD TO UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORT WHEAT FROM THE US AND CANADA, AS THEY DID UNDER RPP.

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ALONG WITH HIM, DEMIREL HAD SIX MINISTERS AND THE SON OF MENDERES, AND A SUBSTANTIAL PITCH WAS MADE FOR MEMBERS OF THE OLD DP. ERBAKAN AND THE NSP WERE NOT DIRECTLY MENTIONED.
VON DEN STEINEN

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Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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